



Technical Mapping Advisory Council

Minutes Teleconference Meeting July 16, 1998

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 11:14 a.m. Attending were:

Members

Mark Riebau, Chairman, Presiding
Peggy Bowker, NFDA
Mickael K. Buckley, FEMA
Kari Craun, USGS
Brian Hyde, ASFPM
Albert LeQuang, Freddie Mac
Michael Moye, NationsBank
Kevin Hickey, Fannie Mae

Others

Bill DeGroot, Technical Advisor, NAFSMA
Mary Jean Pajak, FEMA
Matthew Miller, FEMA
Sally Magee, FEMA
Mike Grimm, FEMA
Anne Flowers, FEMA
Jeff Sparrow, Dewberry & Davis
Al Romano, Michael Baker Corp.
Melba Gandy, recording secretary

Members Donald Hull, AASG; Wendy Lathrop, ASCM; and Charles Challstrom, NGS/NOAA, were not present.

Minutes of May 31-June 1, 1998, Atlanta

By acclamation, the Council deferred final action on the Minutes until August 17. The deferral is for the purpose of allowing time for Brian Hyde to

review and amend the paragraph on page 10, beginning “Brian Hyde...” The rewrite from Mr. Hyde will be circulated to Council members by the recording secretary, and will replace current text in the final minutes.

Next Meeting, August 17 and 18, 1998

The Council, by acclamation, agreed on the following items for the draft Agenda of the August meeting, to be held at the offices of USGS, Reston, Virginia, in room BA 102A.

1. Presentation of information about digital orthophotoquads, Kari Craun
2. Presentation from FGDC on Geospatial Data Standards (to be arranged by Matt Miller)
3. Discussion of the Modernization Plan, including implementation priorities and assignments for Council members to work with Objectives Managers on implementation
4. Discussion of future conditions hydrology; decision on whether to formulate a Council recommendation
5. 1998 annual Report
6. Discussion of Elevation Certificate.

In other discussion about the August meeting, Kari Craun noted that someone from the USGS Water Resources Division would be willing to make presentation on the status of and future plans for the stream gauging program; and that a presentation could be made as well on the report on Updating Flood Inundation Maps. Peggy Bowker asked whether a copy of the report would be available before the meeting, and Kari Craun responded that it is an open file report available on the Internet from the USGS website.

Peggy Bowker questioned whether the group would like to tour the printing plant where USGS maps are produced. Members expressed interest in doing so. The Chairman asked for a time frame for the discussion of cartography, the introduction to map production (including a tour of the facility), and presentations on the USGS stream gauging network and updating Flood Inundation Maps. Kari Craun responded that if the discussion of cartography consisted of an overview, about 4 and one-half hours would be needed.

The group decided to obtain lunch during the August meeting at the USGS cafeteria because of its proximity to the meeting site. With regard to availability of the site, Ms Craun reported that the building will be open about 6:30 a.m. and will

close at 6:00 p.m. (one entrance remains open). Security procedures for those entering the building are minimal but a personal identification document will be necessary. Ms Craun recommended that participants arrive at the building about 15 minutes before the meeting starts.

The chairman summarized the agenda and time frames as follows:

Monday, August 17

8:00 a.m.	Call to Order and Announcements
8:05	Action on Minutes of May 31-June 1, and July 16
8:30	Modernization plan discussion
10:30	Break
10:45	Elevation Certificate discussion
11:45	Lunch
12:30 p.m.	USGS presentations (digital orthophotoquads, stream gauging program, updating flood inundation maps) and printing plant tour (also, fold in information on FGDC data standards)
5:00	Recess

Tuesday, August 18

8:00 a.m.	1998 Annual Report discussion
10:00 a.m.	Break
10:15 a.m.	Continue Annual Report discussion
12:30 p.m.	Lunch
1:30	Discussion of future conditions hydrology
2:30	Base Maps and Base Map Standards, <i>John Gambel</i>
3:00	Old business
3:30	New Business
5:00	Adjourn

Ms Craun reported that the hotel at which members will be staying is about one and one-half to two miles from the meeting site, and is walkable (but with difficulty) in about 45 minutes.

Peggy Bowker questioned whether a more efficient way to amend the minutes could be found than taking time at meetings to labor over the changes. The Chairman suggested that members, in the future, send their comments to the

recording secretary in advance and copy other members. Minutes can then be revised to incorporate the changes before the next meeting.

Asked about the FGDC presentation, Matt Miller responded that FEMA plans to map in compliance with standards for data and metadata. The concept is that spatial data produced by all agencies should be interchangeable among agencies and should facilitate private-sector user of federal data. Brian Hyde and Peggy Bowker agreed that a written presentation, provided to members before the meeting, would help in understanding the topic.

After considerable discussion, the group agreed to incorporate discussion of standards into the USGS presentations. The Council is interested in knowing how standards relate to mapping in general and to FIRMs in particular, but does not need an in-depth explanation of what the standards are. Kari Craun agreed to give a status report on the applicable standards already approved.

Peggy Bowker suggested that a committee of the Council be appointed to prepare a proposed outline and suggest content for the annual report in advance of the August meeting. The Chairman asked for volunteers, and appointed Peggy Bowker and Brian Hyde. The Chairman will work with the committee.

Brian Hyde raised a question about the status of the opinion of General Counsel regarding future conditions hydrology, and stated that it would be helpful before the discussion of that topic in August to know the OGC current opinion relative to the opinion issued earlier. Mike Grimm responded that the work group for this issue would not be prepared in August to discuss the legal opinion. The Chairman suggested that he and Bill DeGroot work with Mike Grimm to link the Council into FEMA's review of the issue. No objection was heard from other members.

The Chairman raised the issue of possible need for discussion about a Council recommendation concerning base maps. Matt Miller pointed out that the Council has already made a recommendation for a standard base map and reported that FEMA is working on it. It would still be productive, he continued, for the Council to participate actively in the development of that standard. Other members of the Council questioned whether the recommendation already made should be expanded.

Progress Report on the Modernization Program

Matt Miller reiterated that FEMA has 37 objectives in the modernization program, each of which has a manager and work group. FEMA is concerned about how to include the Council and other customers (experts) in developing map standards. Although the standards are being written for FEMA products, their development should include all interested groups.

Mary Jean Pajak added that development of standards might be more manageable if the Council could identify individuals to work with the objective manager to coordinate the information flow. FEMA will propose identifying the critical workgroups that really need Council input and perhaps formalize the linkage at the meeting in August. Ann Flowers added that FEMA has a Powerpoint presentation going to the regions along with talking points that can “spread the gospel” to their local areas. A newsletter also will be initiated in September that will spotlight different objectives in each issue, and include interviews with the objectives managers and messages from Mike Buckley. The intended audience is map users generally. Also underway is a homepage for mapping. The map Modernization Plan is currently on FEMA’s webpage.

Matt Miller reported that Ann Flowers also has established a digital suggestion box at MAPMOD@FEMA.gov. Suggestions go to Ann Flowers, who directs them to the applicable objective manager(s). Council comments would be welcomed.

Old Business

Matt Miller reported that FEMA plans to have standards in place starting the latter part of this fiscal year. FEMA also wants to develop a process for continuous improvement in the mapping program, and is working toward having a line item for flood map modernization in the FY 2000 budget

Mike Buckley added that the Western Governor’s Association sent a letter of support to the oversight committee and other letters of support also have been received.

The Chairman reported that he is meeting on Tuesday (August 18) after the Council meeting with an ASCE representative (who also may attend the Council meeting). The purpose of the meeting is to develop a strategy to ensure strong support throughout the ASCE for the modernization program. The National

Society of Professional Engineers also has expressed an interest in the Council and the mod program and the chairman will solicit their support also.

Mark Riebau reported the URL for the periodical publication, Natural Hazards Observer, which has interesting articles about natural hazards: www.colorado.edu/hazards. Mike Buckley added that FEMA wants an article published in one of the issues.

Mary Jean Pajak reported that the due date for the Map Service Center proposals is July 28. Answers to questions were sent out on July 8 and were posted on FEMA's website. The agency continues to expect to award the contract before September 30, 1998.

Adjournment

Hearing no further business, the Chairman called for a motion to Adjourn.

Motion was made by Mike Buckley and seconded by Peggy Bowker to conclude the meeting. Upon affirmative vote, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 12:39 p.m.